

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00247 221309Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 221230Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 2457

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0247

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, SY

SUBJECT: KING FAISAL'S VISIT TO SYRIA: SARG DISCOUNTS KISSINGER'S
"THREATS"

REF: A. JIDDA 0403; B. DAMASCUS 0225 (NOTAL)

1. HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY SYRIAN PRESSURE FOR STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENT IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, COMMENT BY FONMIN KHADDAM TO SENATOR PERCY JANUARY 19 IS RELEVANT TO THIS WHOLE ISSUE.

2. DISCUSSING US ECONOMIC CRISIS, KHADDAM NOTED, ALMOST IN PASSING, THAT AS FAR AS US THREAT TO OCCUPY OIL INSTALLATIONS WAS CONCERNED, "NO ONE TAKES THIS SERIOUSLY. WHILE NO ONE WOULD ACCEPT IT, FROM SYRIAN STANDPOINT IT DOES NOT CONCERN US. WE BELIEVE STATEMENTS WERE NOT A SERIOUS THREAT." FOREGOING COMMENT DELIGHTED PERCY WHO EXCLAIMED, "YOU HAVE NO NEED FOR CONCERN AND I AM IMPRESSED BY YOUR INSIGHT."

3. HTERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL SARG STATEMENT, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER FAISAL'S VISIT, CONCERNING SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW. THERE HAVE BEEN CRITICAL

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COMMENTARIES IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS, WHICH

PRESUMABLY HAD OFFICIAL SANCTION, BUT EVEN THESE ARTICLES
WERE UNSIGNED AND DID NOT REFER TO "OFFICIAL SOURCES"
AS THEIR INSPIRATION.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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